

CLAIMS

1. In a stackable low depth case for retaining and transporting bottles comprising opposing side walls and opposing end walls forming an outer shell having a longitudinal axis and a transverse axis; a case bottom disposed substantially within said outer shell; said improvement comprising:

said side walls including a lower wall portion and a plurality of spaced upwardly projecting pylons, four corner pylons defining four corners of said case;

a plurality of spaced upwardly projecting columns generally disposed within said outer shell defining, in combination with said case bottom, said side walls and said end walls, a plurality of bottle retaining pockets, said columns and said pylons extending above said lower wall portions and below a top surface of the retained bottles; and

at least one of said lower wall portions including an integrally molded logo.

2. A stackable case as in claim 1 wherein said logo substantially defines an exterior surface of said lower wall portion.

3. A stackable case as in claim 2 wherein said lower wall portion further includes a plurality of retaining tabs substantially defining an interior surface of said lower wall portion and extending upwards from said case bottom.

4. A stackable case as in claim 1 wherein said logo substantially defines an interior surface and an exterior surface of said lower wall portion.

5. A stackable low depth case for retaining and transporting bottles comprising:

a plurality of outer side walls forming an outer shell having a low depth, said outer shell being rectangular and having a longer length than width and having the ratio of the length to the width of said outer shell being substantially equal to the ratio of the number of bottles said case holds in a length-wise direction to the number of bottles the case holds in a widthwise direction, at least two of said outer side walls including a lower side wall portion and a plurality of spaced side members extending above an upper surface of said lower side wall portion;

a bottom portion attached to said side walls;

a plurality of spaced central members generally disposed within said side walls defining, in combination with said bottom portion and said outer side walls, a plurality of bottle retaining pockets with at least one central member per pocket, at least some of said central members having a portion thereof which extends above a top surface of said lower side wall portions and below a top surface of the retained bottles; and

said bottom portion includes:

an upper surface which is substantially flat across the bottle retaining pockets; and

resting and guiding means for resting said bottom portion on closures of bottles on which said case is stacked and for guiding the closures coaxially with a centerline of said bottle retaining pockets;

wherein when said case is empty, said spaced members of said case interlock with an upper case when said cases are stacked, and when a subjacent case is loaded, the closures of bottles disposed in the subjacent case abut said

bottom portion resting and guiding means when said cases are stacked bottom to top; and

wherein at least one of said lower side wall portions includes integrally molded logo means for identifying a source of origin.

6. A stackable case as in claim 5 wherein said logo means substantially defines an exterior surface of said lower wall portion.

7. A stackable case as in claim 6 wherein said lower wall portion further includes a plurality of retaining tabs substantially defining an interior surface of said lower wall portion and extending upwards from said case bottom.

8. A stackable case as in claim 5 wherein said logo means substantially defines an interior surface and an exterior surface of said lower wall portion.

9. A low depth crate for storing and transporting bottles, the crate comprising a floor including a floor top surface and a floor bottom surface, the floor top surface having thereon a plurality of support areas for supporting an array of bottles, the crate also comprising a wall structure integrally formed with the floor and extending around the periphery thereof, the wall structure including side walls having interior surfaces and exterior surfaces, wherein the improvement comprises:

an integrally molded logo forming a structural component of at least one of said side walls.

10. A stackable case as in claim 9 wherein said logo substantially defines an exterior surface of said at least one said side wall.

11. A stackable case as in claim 9 wherein said logo substantially defines an interior surface and an exterior surface of said at lease one said side wall.